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# City of Fairfax NEWS RELEASE

Fairfax, Virginia 22030

## **MEDIA CONTACT:**

Christopher Bruno, Economic Development Director

703-385-7851 (voice); 711 (TTY)

[Christopher.Bruno@fairfaxva.gov](mailto:Christopher.Bruno@fairfaxva.gov)

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## **Economic Development Authority, Chamber of Commerce Collocate in Mason Enterprise Center**

**FAIRFAX, Va.** — The City of Fairfax Economic Development Authority (EDA) has joined forces with the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce to support Fairfax business by collocating in an office in the Mason Enterprise Center-Fairfax.

The new joint office space highlights the strength of the EDA's relationship with the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce (CFCC) while positioning the EDA to more effectively reach new and expanding businesses. Fairfax businesses can benefit from the EDA's new location by taking advantage of the services offered by other building tenants, including the Mason Small Business Development Center.

The EDA continues to evolve its resources by launching a new website focused on communicating the benefits of operating a business in the city. The new website — [www.fairfaxcityeda.org](http://www.fairfaxcityeda.org) — will allow the EDA to communicate directly with businesses, residents, and visitors about the vast array of ongoing programs, initiatives, available properties, business startup assistance, tourism event space rental opportunities, and more.

City of Fairfax Mayor Steven C. Stombres said, "The Economic Development Authority is taking bold steps to help Fairfax continue to be one of the best places to open and operate a business. Providing such ground-level support to businesses really helps us stand out in a hyper-competitive region — which is evident by the high caliber of businesses we see opening and operating in the city."

Christopher Bruno, director of the City of Fairfax Economic Development Office, said, "I am encouraged and excited to see such a strong Economic Development Authority and strong Chamber of Commerce partnership. This collaboration will continue to build a more robust business base in Fairfax. Having these two community organizations in a single office will bolster the growth and strength of city businesses, and will continue to support business interests in the city, and in the region, for years to come."

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## ***(Economic Development Authority and Chamber of Commerce Collocate, continued)***

Mary Valenta, chair of the Economic Development Authority, said, “The EDA is proud to be partnering with the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce on office space. We also are excited about the benefits the new website will bring to businesses and prospective businesses in the city. Fairfax continues to be one of the best places to live, and to operate a business. It’s time we told that story.”

Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce Chair Douglas Church noted, “The mission of the chamber is to empower businesses with the vision, leadership and resources to achieve success. Working with the EDA and being located in the Mason Enterprise Center is just one more way we are able to position the business community in Fairfax to do just that.”

Currently, EDA and CFCC office hours are by appointment (scheduled via e-mail directly to the CFCC and EDA). However, the partners will migrate to scheduled office hours, most likely in the spring.

The *MEC - Fairfax* ([www.mecfairfax.org](http://www.mecfairfax.org)) is partnership between George Mason University, the City of Fairfax, and the Fairfax City Economic Development Authority. MEC-Fairfax serves as the central Fairfax small business incubator program, providing access to business advisors, networking opportunities, and quality business education programs.

The *Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce* ([www.cfcc.org](http://www.cfcc.org)) is a community-based organization made up of local business owners focused on helping businesses of all sizes succeed. The Chamber provides an opportunity to help businesses owners maximize their business opportunities and strives to make help make Fairfax the most business-friendly environment possible.

The *City of Fairfax Economic Development Authority* ([www.fairfaxcityeda.org](http://www.fairfaxcityeda.org)) is an independent board of commissioners appointed by the City Council to four-year terms tasked with promoting a strong business base within the City of Fairfax. To do this, the EDA is charged with helping to attract new businesses, grow existing business, and develop programs and initiatives the make it easier to live, work, and shop in the City of Fairfax.

The *City of Fairfax Economic Development Office* (EDO) is responsible for developing the business environment in the City of Fairfax. EDO creates and sponsors programs that encourage good jobs and strong businesses. In partnership with the EDA, the EDO seeks to create a vibrant city economy that works for all residents, businesses, and visitors of Fairfax.

Information: [Christopher.Bruno@fairfaxva.gov](mailto:Christopher.Bruno@fairfaxva.gov), 703-385-7851.